

Statement on public consultation DG SANCO in matter of possible revision of guideline 37/2001 on production, marketing and selling of tobacco products

From: Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic

With regard to start of public consultation from the side of European Commission concerning possibility of revision of guideline 37/2001 on production, marketing and selling of tobacco products, as for the Slovak Republic we provide you with the following standpoint:

The primary goal of possible revision should be, according our opinion, improvement of the protection of public health in sphere of lowering offer and demand for tobacco products. From this reason the above mentioned guideline is in competence of DG SANCO which is focused in this respect on improving of protection mostly of children and youth in sphere of lowering offer and demand for tobacco products from the reason of smoking incidence increasing throughout the Europe. With the purpose of protection improvement of children and youth and creation of conditions for tobacco control we therefore present our standpoint on individual points included in public consultation DG SANCO in the year 2010.

With respect to inclusion of other products for smoking into the guideline 37/2001 we think that it should not include other products which do not contain tobacco. The reason is the fact that the name and intent of guideline 37/2001 is focused only on tobacco products. Possible extension of the guideline with other products would also bring the need for change of the guideline name and intent.

As for the question of smokeless tobacco products or products intended for internal use we agree with the ban of their sale in accordance with the current valid guideline 37/2001 and Act number 377/2004 Coll. of Laws on protection of non-smokers with the wording of later amendments. According our opinion it would not be appropriate to extend total ban for usage on all smokeless tobacco products.

With regard to consumer informing on consumer packaging of tobacco products our opinion is that the usage of warning labels on tobacco products should remain in competency of national governments. In case of establishing single-colored consumer packaging we are afraid of illegal trading increase with such products which could be easily falsified.

As for the reporting and evidence of ingredients in tobacco products in sense of valid guideline 37/2001 we recommend adopting unified list of ingredients also containing the list of banned substances which can not be used during manufacture of tobacco products. As we in Slovakia have an experience with such list we recommend it to other member states as well.

With regard to accessibility of tobacco products our opinion is that it is necessary to limit access of young people to tobacco products via internet where the age of buyer can not be checked. From this reason we suggest to ban selling of tobacco products via internet, maintain ban of sale through

vending machines and we support limitation of tobacco products sale at cash registers which leads to promotion and advertising of tobacco products towards youth.

I believe that it will be possible to present our notions in more detail during the 13th session of Regulation Council for tobacco guideline in February 2011.

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